

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 21, beginning at line 4 and ending at line 14, please amend the paragraph as follows:

**Example 3: RNA interference**

Two distinct small interfering RNA (siRNA) oligonucleotides duplexes (hSGT and hSGT\*,) which specifically targeted the sequences 5'-AACTTGAAGCTGCCGTGGATT-3' SEQ ID NO:3 (~~SEQ ID NO:2~~) and 5'-AAGCACGTGGAGGCCGTGGCTTA-3' SEQ ID NO:4 (~~SEQ ID NO:3~~) within *hsgt* were supplied by Xeragon Inc.[.] By BLAST analysis, the sequences of these to siRNA oligonucleotides were not detected in any other human gene. As negative control, the previously described  $\beta$ 12-specific siRNA was used. Transfection was performed using the oligofectamine<sup>TM</sup> Reagent (Invitrogen) following the instruction of the supplier, and silencing efficiency was determined by evaluating the residual amount of hSGT after immunoblotting.